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May 7, 2015

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
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From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE -- PURSUIT OF COUNTY POSITION ON BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURES IN THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

This memorandum contains a pursuit of County position to support language in the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 defense authorization legislation which would prohibit a new round of Base Realignment and Closures (BRAC), and to oppose legislative proposals which could result in downsizing or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and other military installations in California.

Background

The Federal government utilizes the BRAC process for transferring or closing military installations. Under the BRAC process, the Department of Defense (DOD) first prepares and submits recommendations on base realignments and closures to an independent BRAC Commission, which, in turn, sends recommendations to the President after reviewing DOD recommendations and public comments. The President can approve or reject the Commission's recommendations. If the President approves the recommendations, they are submitted to Congress, which ultimately decides whether the recommendations are approved or rejected.

Military installations have been closed in five BRAC rounds: 1988, 1991, 1993, 1995, and 2005. California was harder hit by base closures than any other state. The State alone accounted for more than 93,000 (over half) of the nation's total job losses from base closures in the first four BRAC rounds with the Los Angeles area accounting for

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Each Supervisor
May 7, 2015
Page 2

one-fourth of California's total job losses. Two major closures in the County included the Long Beach Naval Station in the 1991 BRAC round and the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in the 1995 BRAC round.

The President's Proposed FFY 2016 Budget includes a request for a new BRAC round. Congress rejected requests for new BRAC rounds that were included in the President's three previous proposed budgets. On May 5, 2015, the House Armed Services Committee reported its FFY 2016 defense authorization bill (H.R. 1735), which includes a provision to prohibit an additional BRAC round, and which includes report language "affirming congressional intent to reject the budget request to authorize another BRAC round."

During the Committee's mark-up of the bill, Representative Adam Smith (D-WA) offered an amendment to authorize a new BRAC round, as requested by the President. He withdrew the amendment, but indicated that he intends to offer the amendment when H.R. 1735 is considered on the House floor later this month. Senate Armed Services subcommittees are scheduled to mark up the Senate version of the FFY 2016 defense authorization bill beginning on May 11, 2015 with the full committee marking up the bill in a closed session beginning on May 13, 2015.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

Retaining the Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB) and its Space and Missile Systems Center at their current location is a longstanding Board priority, which would be met if Congress rejects the President's request for a new BRAC round. **Based on existing Board-approved policy in the County's Federal Legislative Agenda to oppose proposals which would result in the downsizing or closure of the LAAFB and other military installations in California, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, the County's Washington, D.C. advocates will support language in the FFY 2016 defense authorization bill which would prohibit a new BRAC round, and oppose legislative proposals which could result in downsizing or closure of the Los Angeles Air Force Base and other military installations in the State.**

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
MT:lm

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist